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# Statehood Status Dim Says Taitano

The people of Guam need to have a voice in solutions of present and future problems, Senator Richard F. Taitano told members of the Rotary Club of Tumon Bay during their Tuesday meeting at the Hilton Hotel.

Taitano, a member of the Legislative Political Status Commission, said, "We must decide where we are going and find out what we want to be determined locally."

Guam is a colony of the United States, Taitano said. "The Federal Government does not have a colonial policy, but the absence of a policy is a policy itself. The U.S. is the only government without a department of colonial administration," he said.

Under Guam's present status as an unincorporated territory, the U.S. Congress determines major policies of the island, said Taitano.

"The chances of Guam becoming a state are very dim under the present Congress," said Taitano. It would be useless to become an incorporated territory because this would be to court the promise of statehood which may never be fulfilled, he said.

Alternatives for Guam would be annexation to Hawaii or California, becoming a "mythical 51st state" or obtaining commonwealth status, said Taitano.

"The United States could create a mythical 51st

state of all its offshore territories, such as Guam, Virgin Islands, Canal Zone, Puerto Rico and American Samoa. This would enable all of us to secure voting representation in the U.S. Congress and participate in the development of national policy," he said.

"We should decide soon how many people should reside on the island. Think what has happened to the society of Guam during the past 10 years. We don't want to stop progress, but we should progress in a fashion which would do the most good for the community. Many basic Chamorro traits still persist despite years of Americanization," said Taitano.

Guam should determine its own immigration, economic and trade policies, he said.

"Our community should determine our trade policy instead of a bureaucrat in Washington," he said.

"As the movement in the Trust Territory heightens towards an ultimate political goal, our local movement will develop along parallel lines. We want to keep the stability and predictability of our American government and I'm sure that whatever the people of Guam will develop, the U.S. Congress will approve. However, we need to have a responsible government here, one that responds to the desires of the people," he concluded.